

Message Text

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42

ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3746

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, JA

SUBJ: GOJ NAMES MASAO SAWAKI NEW AMBASSADOR TO PHILIPPINES

1. ON JULY 2 GOJ ANNOUNCED APPOINTMENT OF MASAO SAWAKI (54) AS NEW AMBASSADOR TO PHILIPPINES. SAWAKI HAS BEEN CONSUL GENERAL IN NEW YORK CITY SINCE 1972.

2. CAREER DIPLOMAT SAWAKI ENTERED MOFA IN 1945 AFTER GRADUATION FROM TOKYO UNIVERSITY AND 4 YEARS' NAVY DUTY. LIKE MOST GOJ DIPLOMATS IN IMMEDIATE POST-WAR PERIOD, HE WAS ASSIGNED TO CENTRAL LIAISON OFFICE (GOJ CONTACT POINT WITH OCCUPATION AUTHORITIES), WHERE HE REMAINED UNTIL TRANSFER TO MOFA'S INTERNATIONAL TRADE BUREAU IN 1949. SAWAKI'S FIRST OVERSEAS POST CAME IN 1952 WHEN HE WAS ASSIGNED AS SECOND SECRETARY TO WASHINGTON, D.C. RETURNING TO JAPAN IN 1954, SAWAKI SERVED IN SUCCESSION IN THE ECONOMIC AFFAIRS BUREAU, JAPAN DEFENSE AGENCY (ON DETAIL) AND TREATIES BUREAU. AFTER PROMOTION TO FIRST SECRETARY IN 1957, SAWAKI WAS POSTED TO BRASILIA. IN 1959 SAWAKI WAS ASSIGNED TO ECONOMIC COOPERATION BUREAU (ECB) WHICH HANDLES GOJ ECONOMIC AID PROGRAMS AND PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS. FOUR YEARS LATER SAWAKI WAS TRANSFERRED AS COUNSELOR TO ROME (1963) AND THEN TO WASHINGTON (1966). FROM 1968 TO 1970 SAWAKI SERVED AS COUNSELOR OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION

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TION BUREAU. IN 1970 HE BECAME DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THAT

BUREAU, REMAINING IN THAT POST UNTIL 1972 POSTING TO NEW YORK.

3. PRIOR TO NEW YORK ASSIGNMENT, SAWAKI PARTICIPATED IN SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS. FOR EXAMPLE, IN 1970 HE ATTENED MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTHEAST ASIA IN JOGJAKARTA, HEIDELBERG ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE AND ROTTERDAM MEETING OF INTER-GOVERNMENTAL GROUP FOR INDOESIA DEBT RESCHEDULING.

4. SAWAKI AND HIS WIFE, TOSHIKO, HAVE TWO DAUGHTERS: 26 YEAR OLD KUMIKO AND 23 YEAR OLD EMIKO (ONE OF WHOM SPENT SEVERAL YEARS IN THE UNITED STATES).

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